

Holy Apostles Newsletter

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



THE FAST & FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES'

In preparation for the apostles' fast, let us contemplate on the apostles and the establishment of the early church. It is my prayer that all will draw closer to God, to an understanding of the apostles.

“And He appointed twelve, whom He also named APOSTLES, to be with Him and to be sent out...” (Mark 3:14).

The twelve apostles formed the inner core of the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. They were personally chosen by the Lord Himself, had the power of working miracles, and were inspired to teach and to do extraordinary mission work. On the Feast of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles and they became great, giving witness with the power of the life and death and the resurrection of Jesus as He declared they should.

“When the Bridegroom shall be taken from them.....then they shall fast” (Matthew 9:15). The Apostles' Fast is the oldest fast and the first one kept by the Christian Church. During the Apostles' Fast, the Holy Spirit spoke to them, “As they ministered to the Lord and FASTED the Holy Spirit said separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away” (Acts 13:2-3).


The apostles served the Lord Jesus and later provided leadership to the first generation Christian believers. They were of such importance that the word “apostle” occurs approximately seventy-nine times in the New Testament. Acts of the Apostles portrays the apostles as leaders of the first church in Jerusalem during the Church's first decade. The apostles truly established the church and with their fast we contemplate the glory of God, their faith, and hardships in which they overcame.

“Apostolic Fathers” is a collection of early Christian writings, written around AD 90 to the last third of the second century. It is a discourse from early church leaders over nearly a hundred years. The “Apostolic Fathers” is not a single collection of

writings but a selection of writings that relates to practical problems that emerged with the development of individual church communities in the first and second century. Such problems encompassed the meaning of Christianity, appropriate Christian lifestyle, authority for disputes, and establishing tradition.

One of the most passionate of these works is the “Letter of Ignatius to the Romans.” St Ignatius is being escorted by soldiers from the city of Antioch to the capital at Rome. St Ignatius role of bishop led to his arrest. This is considered the Holy of Holies and an excerpt from the letter reads to the Romans' as follows:

“I am writing to all the churches and am insisting to everyone that I die for God of my own free will--unless you hinder me. I implore you: do not be “unseasonably kind” to me. Let me be food for the wild beasts, through whom I can reach God. I am God's wheat, and I am being ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I might prove to be pure bread. Better yet, coax the wild beasts, that they may become my tomb and leave nothing of my body behind, lest I become a burden to someone once I have fallen asleep. Then I will truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ, when the world will no longer see my body. Pray to the Lord on my behalf, that through these instruments I may be a sacrifice to God. I do not give you orders like Peter and Paul; they were apostles, I am a convict; they were free, but I am even now still a slave.....”

With thoughts of these great men, God's inspiration in them, and the twelve who led the way, let us contemplate in awe of the APOSTLES. 

Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission

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From The Holy Fathers

Use your body, I beseech you, with moderation. Remember, with this body you will be raised from death when you come to be judged. Perhaps you have some doubt whether this could happen. If so, reflect in detail on what has already happened within your own self. Tell me, where were you a hundred years ago? Cannot the Creator who gave existence to a person that did not exist bring to life again a person that did exist but is now dead? Every year he makes the corn spring to life that had withered and died after it was sown. Do you suppose that he who raised himself from the dead for our sake will have any difficulty in raising us to new life?

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Catecheses, 4, 30ff(PG33, 492)

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Community Forum

HOLY APOSTLES' FEAST DAY

Our patronal feast day, the feast of the Holy Apostles, falls on a Monday this year (July 13th). With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, we will combine the feasts of St. Peter & Paul and our patronal feast, celebrating both on Sunday, July 12th. The services for those days will be as follows:

Saturday, July 11th: Vigil for Sts. Peter & Paul and all the Holy Apostles w/Lity at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 12th: Divine Liturgy, followed by festal luncheon at the new home of the Van Denends at 5716 NW Alki Road, Vancouver, WA 98663.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, condiments, waters, and paper goods/cups will be provided by the church. Each family bring your own drinks and a side dish as follows:

Last name A-H - cold side dish

Last name I - S - hot side dish

Last name T - W - dessert

CALENDAR INFO / MEETING

Fr. Dimitri would like to have an all-parish meeting giving everyone an opportunity to learn, discuss, and ask questions regarding the New (Gregorian) and the Old (Julian) calendars within the Orthodox Church. We will have this meeting on Sunday, July 19th after coffee hour.

In the meantime, there are a few articles that would be helpful for you to read through either alone or as a family and to formulate some questions to bring with you to the meeting for our discussion.

See the following articles on this complex and sometimes controversial subject:

<http://www.chrysostom.org/andrew/texts/parsells-calendar.pdf>

http://orthodoxinfo.com/ecumenism/ea_calendar.aspx

There is a lot of information to be found in these articles.

When you are reading, do not get overwhelmed with information, and try, as in every situation, to keep a spirit of peace, patience, and of non-judgment. If you have questions before the meeting, feel free to talk with Fr. Dimitri directly.

ALL ARE INVITED

All are invited to the Holy Baptism and Chrismation of Olga Irina Cable, Sunday, June 7th at 9 am before the Divine Liturgy. After the service, we will have a cake with our coffee hour to celebrate with the Cable family.

KNEELING VESPERS

On Sunday, June 7th, the Feast Day of Pentecost, Kneeling Vespers is served on the evening of Pentecost (ours will be immediately following coffee hour). In this service the posture of kneeling—a posture of penitence that is avoided during the glorious, joyful celebration of Pascha—is reintroduced to the liturgical life of the Church. Several “kneeling prayers” are prayed by the priest while the faithful kneel. This is one of the most beautiful services in the Liturgical year as we invite the Holy Spirit to fill our lives with every good. I encourage as many to come as are able. While it is a long day with a Baptism and the Divine Liturgy, the prayers themselves are worth your extra efforts.

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO THE AIELLO'S

Sunday, July 12th will be the Aiello's last Sunday at Holy Apostles, as Rdr. Bartholomew is following a call to attend St. Tikhon's Seminary in Pennsylvania in the fall. We wish them all of God's blessings, and we thank them for all their contributions to Holy Apostles! May God grant them many years and remember them in your prayers.

Kitchen Corner

Roasted Asparagus
4 servings

Ingredients:

2 bunches medium asparagus

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Grated or shaved Parmesan, optional

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

Trim the woody ends from the asparagus, usually about 1 1/2 inches. Spread the spears in a single layer on a baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with the salt and pepper, and roll to coat thoroughly.

Roast the asparagus until lightly browned and tender, about 8 to 10 minutes, giving the pan a good shake about halfway through to turn the asparagus. Arrange the roasted asparagus on a serving platter and top with some Parmesan. Serve warm or at room temperature.

GOLDENDALE FEAST DAY

Gerontissa Epraxia and the sisters of St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery invite the faithful to the monastery to celebrate their patronal feast, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and the ground-breaking for their new church.

5 Timmer Lane, Goldendale, Washington 98620
Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
Great Vespers and Matins

Wednesday, June 24th at 8:30 a.m.
Hours, Liturgy and Festal Luncheon

Accommodations:
Ponderosa Motel 509-773-5842 or Fairview Motel 509-773-5881

POTLUCK COFFEE HOUR

We will continue having coffee hour potluck style. Please bring something to contribute to the coffee hour (no matter how small), so we have enough food for our guests.

Clean-up teams have been updated as follows:

Team Blue - Aiello, Harvey, Virosteck, Perez, Harvest
Team Green - Donnor, Campbell, Story, Tregub, Vaganova, Cable, Foat/Langston, Domico
Team Orange - VanDenend, Harmon, Beckel, Koehn, Topness, Semenak, Miminoshvili
Team Yellow - Ivkin, Watt, Kojenov, Harvison, Cortez

See the calendar for dates you are on clean-up. If you are unable to clean up on your day, make sure to trade with someone. Clean-up duties are light and include sweeping, cleaning the coffee maker, wiping down tables, stacking chairs, making sure everyone takes their dish home from coffee hour, etc. We should leave it the same way in which we arrived.

AGIA SOPHIA FUNDRAISER

Agia Sophia Academy would like our support for a fundraiser in support of the school. Save the date on your calendar for a Greek Open Golf Tournament and Lamb Chop Dinner & Auction on September 21, 2009 at Langdon Farms Golf Club. For more information on this fundraiser or about the school, visit:

INTENSIVE ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

...with Master Iconographer Dmitri Andreyev. Dates are July 13-18, 2009. Cost is \$675 which includes all materials. Workshop will be held at Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie, OR. To register, contact Rachel Daniels at ICONOGRAPHYCLASS@HOTMAIL.COM or call 503-891-1202.

MINISTRIES WITHIN THE CHURCH

In an effort to provide the parish with information as to who fulfills which ministry, the following ministries have persons assigned to them:

Clergy & Tonsured Sub-Deacons/Readers:

Fr. Dimitri Perez

Dn. Mark Story

Sub-Deacon Philip Knop (Sacristan), Sub-Deacon Alex Rdr. Nectarios Harmon, Rdr. Bartholomew Aiello, Rdr. Peter Van Denend

Altar Boys: Victor Kojenov, Seva Cable, Ilya Cable

Parish Council Members:

Alexei Kojenov - President

Mike Virosteck - Vice President

Emmelia Beckel - Secretary

Lena Campbell - Treasurer

Veronica Cable - Member

Choir - Matushka Mary

Choir members - Rdr. Nectarios Harmon, Rdr. Peter Van Denend, Emmelia Beckel, George Donnor, Juliana Van Denend, Veronica Cable, Lena Campbell

Prospora Baking - Macrina Harmon

Baptism Coordinator - Svetlana Domico

Meal Coordinator (when a baby is born) - Emmelia Beckel and Juliana Van Denend

Sunday school - Veronica Cable

Supplies for Church - Nektaria Harvey

Feast day / Birthday list - Joanna Donnor

Web-Master - Alexei Kojenov

Calendar & Newsletter - Matushka Mary/Fr. Dimitri

As the time goes on, and the church grows, there will be other ministries to be fulfilled. Currently, there is a need for someone to be a "greeter" entailing greeting newcomers, making sure they are welcomed, given something to eat and drink, introduced to other members, giving them a liturgy book if so desired, and their contact information.

If there is a particular ministry you feel called to or inclined to fulfil, or know of something needed not listed above, please don't hide your talent in the ground! Talk to Fr. Dimitri and we'll see how we can put you to work for the good of your soul and the good of the church!

